

SHAW TRIAL IN RECESS 5-1 2/18/69

## Records of JFK Autopsy Ordered Released to N.O.

The Clay L. Shaw conspiracy trial was in recess for Mardi Gras today following a ruling by a Washington judge ordering the National Archives to release autopsy documents dealing with President Kennedy's assassination.

Judge Charles W. Halleck of the District of Columbia General Sessions Court yesterday ordered autopsy documents, the assassination rifle and other items connected with Kennedy's death be taken to New Orleans for the Shaw trial.

**THE RULING**, immediately appealed by government attorneys, was a victory for New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who requested the items for use in his case against Shaw, who is charged with conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

The Washington judge said he has assurances the items will be protected in Louisiana and will remain in the custody of national archivist Dr. James B. Rhoads.

Numa V. Bertel, assistant district attorney, said Rhoads would be given 48 hours' notice before his scheduled appearance here, but this depends on the outcome of the appeal.

**THE ITEMS** released included: X-rays and photographs taken at the autopsy performed at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Md.; the rifle; a spent pellet; fragments of bullets, and X-rays of then Gov. John Connally of Texas, who was shot as he

rode in the car in Dallas with Kennedy.

The government maintains the items are U.S. property and the autopsy documents are subject to a letter of agreement from the Kennedy family.

Halleck had said he would not order the autopsy documents sent to New Orleans if the government would permit a pathologist to examine them in Washington, but the government refused to allow this.

**YESTERDAY**, in the trial here, another pathologist testified he thought Kennedy was killed from the front.

The testimony contradicts findings of the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination and concluded Kennedy was slain by shots fired from behind the motorcade.

The commission also concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired the fatal shots from the Texas School Book Depository.

**PRESIDING JUDGE** Edward A. Haggerty Jr. recessed the trial here yesterday after two jurors were reported ill and before the defense got a chance to ques-

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tion the pathologist, Dr. John Nichols, associate professor at the University of Kansas.

However, chief defense counsel F. Irvin Dymond reserved a bill of exception with each new question posed to Dr. Nichols.

Dr. Nichols said he based his opinion Kennedy was shot from the front on numerous views of the Zapruder film of the assassination, slides from the film and photographs.

**OTHER WITNESSES** called by the state yesterday included an eyewitness to the assassination in Dealey Plaza, a retired FBI agent who investigated the assassination here and a photographic technician for Life Magazine.

Judge Haggerty said a doctor would examine the two sick jurors but their illnesses were described as "mild."

He also said he arranged for the 14-member panel to view the Rex parade and the truck parade of the Krewe of Orleanians from the balcony of a private home on St. Charles ave.

The trial resumes at 9 a.m. tomorrow.